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M.L.

Attorney Docket No: DCRT-001/01US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Michael V. CONANT et al.

Serial No.:

Examiner: Unknown

Filed:

February 14, 2001

Art Unit:

Unknown

For: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONIC NEGOTIATION OF
DOCUMENT CONTENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in
connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please insert the following Abstract:

--A method and apparatus provide for the negotiation of the content of a document via an
electronic exchange. In one example an electronic exchange operates as a repository of forms of
contracts. A user can initiate a negotiation process by selecting a form contract and, if desired,
customizing the contract to a particular transaction. The user can then advise a third party as to
the existence of the contract on the exchange. The parties can then conduct a negotiation of

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